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REMARKS

Claims

Status of Claims

Claims 4 to 7 and 11 to 16 have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form.

Claims 1 to 2, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Chao in view of Prabhakar.

The Examiner has objected to claims 3 and 10 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1

Amended claim 1 is a combination of claims 1 and 3 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The reference symbols in parentheses have been deleted for reasons of clarity. Also the term "characterised in that" at claim 1 line 10 has been replaced by --wherein-- in line with US patent practice.

Dependent Claims 2 to 7

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claims 4 to 7 have been made singly dependent so as to address the claims objection against these claims.

The reference symbols in parentheses in claims 2 and 4 to 7 have been deleted for clarity.

Dependent claims 2 and 4 to 7 are each patentable not least on the basis that they depend on an allowable amended claim 1.

Claim 8

Amended claim 8 is a combination of claims 8 and 10 in accordance with the Examiner's Indication of allowable subject matter. The reference symbols in parentheses have been deleted for reasons of clarity, and the term "characterised in that" at claim 8 line 5 has been replaced by --wherein-- in line with US patent practice.

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Dependent Claims 9 to 16

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claims 11 to 16 have been made singly-dependent so as to address the claims objection.

Reference symbols in parentheses in claims 9 and 11 to 16 have been deleted for clarity.

Dependent claims 9 and 11 to 16 are each patentable not least on the basis that they each depend on an allowable amended claim 8.

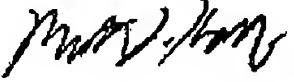
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all the claims presently in the application is respectfully requested, as is passage to issuance of the application. If the Examiner should feel that the application is not yet in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would be useful, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at

732-949-9742.

Respectfully submitted,

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